



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Neil Bradley 226-9717**

## **Conservatives Win Big Victory with Passage of Marriage Penalty Relief**

*House Passes More Tax Relief than Bush Proposed*

WASHINGTON, DC - Members of the House Republican Study Committee (RSC) today declared victory with the passage of a marriage penalty relief bill that went farther than the proposal put forward by President Bush.

Members of the RSC have been working for several weeks to ensure that the legislation considered by the House: 1) provided more tax relief for married couples than President Bush's proposal, and 2) treated all married couples equally. On March 9th, 44 Members spearheaded by RSC Member Jim Ryun (R-KS) sent a letter to Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas (R-CA) endorsing a proposal to provide marriage penalty relief while at the same time treating all married couples equally irrespective of whether both spouses are in the workforce. The bill passed by the House today achieved the two main RSC goals outlined in the letter.

The RSC fought for more marriage penalty relief than the President wanted—and the RSC won! The RSC fought for marriage penalty relief that treated one-earner couples the same as two-earner couples—and the RSC won!

### **RSC Members released the following statements:**

"Today, we have shown our commitment to hard-working American families," Rep. Ryun said. "By ending the penalty on marriage for all married couples and by doubling the child tax credit, we will give all parents the opportunity to do more to secure their children's future."

RSC Chairman John Shadegg (R-AZ), said, "For the tax code to punish marriage or punish families where one spouse stays at home to raise children is outrageous! It's about time these anti-family policies are repealed."

"Millions of American couples are penalized by the IRS for getting married, and that's not right," said Rep. Joseph Pitts (R-PA). "The tax code should be promoting marriage,

not taxing it. With 40 percent of first marriages ending in divorce, and millions of single parents raising children alone, we need to strengthen families. This legislation does that.”

Rep. Pitts continued, "By doubling the Child Tax Credit and fixing the Marriage Tax Penalty, a couple with two children would get to keep an additional \$1,600 of their earnings each year. That's real money. It's enough to buy a washer and a dryer, or pay off a credit card.”

***Bill Summary:*** The bill that passed today by a bipartisan margin of 282-144 doubles the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly to twice that of the standard deduction for single filers beginning in January 1, 2002. This bill phases out the marriage penalty in the 15% tax bracket in 2004 and completes the phase out in 2009, at which time the 15% bracket for married couples filing jointly would be twice the size of the bracket for single filers. Once fully implemented and combined with the rate reduction bill already passed by the House, married couples would not pay a marriage penalty on approximately their first \$62,000 to \$70,000 of income.

Also, the bill increases the earned income limit by 10% for the purpose of the Earned Income Credit and increases the child tax credit from \$500 to \$600 retroactive to the first of this year, to \$700 in 2003, to \$800 in 2004, to \$900 in 2005, and to \$1,000 in 2006.

The rate-reduction bill already passed by the House creates, retroactive to the first of this year, a new 12% bracket that would eliminate the marriage penalty imposed by the tax brackets on the first \$12,000 of a married couples income.

The bill allows American families to keep \$399.2 billion more of their own money between 2001 and 2011.

*A compilation of RSC documents related to tax relief can be found on the RSC website at:*  
[www.house.gov/burton/RSC](http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC)

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